

without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection which is switched via the public communications network into a two-party telecommunications connection wherein, after the telecommunications switching office (VST B), via which a three-party telecommunications connection between two subscriber lines and a further subscriber line or between two subscriber lines and an operator's position is routed, has received a request from the further subscriber line or the operator's position, a new direct telecommunications connection is set up between the two 10 subscriber lines and the existing sections of the three-party telecommunications connection between these two subscriber lines and the further subscriber line or the operator's position are released.

In the claims:

15 On page 9, cancel line 1, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

20 4. A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection, which is switched via a public communications network, between two subscriber lines and one of a further subscriber line and an operator's position, the three-party telecommunications connection being routed via a telecommunications switching office to which the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position is connected, into a two-party telecommunications connection between the two 25 subscriber lines, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating setup, via the telecommunications switching office, and after reception of a request originating from the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position, of a new direct telecommunications connection between the two 30 subscriber lines, wherein the telecommunications switching office requests one of two further telecommunications switching offices to which the two subscriber lines are respectively connected to set up the new telecommunications connection in